

REMARKS

The Amendment, filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 19, 2009, is believed to be fully responsive to all of the issues raised in the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration on the merits and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 9 are allowed.

Claims 13-19 stand rejected as assertedly being unpatentable over Birchall et al. (US 3804648).

Amendments to the claims

In response to the Office Action, without acquiescing the rejection or commenting on the characterization of the teachings of Birchall, solely in order to compact the prosecution, claims 13-19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the only rejection moot. The amendment brings the application to condition for allowance and its entry is respectfully requested.

The rejection is moot and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number **202-775-7588**.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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